

**Avoyelles Parish Drinking Water Protection Committee Meeting
April 7, 2004**

1. Meeting called to order. Introductions.
2. Handout Discussion –
The Committee discussed the progress of getting the used oil recycling flyers passed out, and Bill Branch of the LSU Ag Center took some flyers to give to their Avoyelles Parish office so they can be passed out through that office. Micaela Marchand informed the Committee that more abandoned well fact sheets and more irrigation well fact sheets are being printed.
3. Above Ground Storage Tank (AST) Discussion –
Jerry Smith opened the discussion on above ground storage tanks by stating how they're a major concern for Avoyelles Parish because they are so numerous. He asked Bill Branch to talk about any dealings he's had regarding above ground storage tanks. Mr. Branch talked about how he'd like for people with above ground storage tanks to put in secondary containment. He said that he'd prefer the secondary containment to consist of a concrete dike with a roof over it, but that he doesn't think it's always feasible for everyone to put in containment to that extent. He also told the Committee about how he recently spoke with a farmer that had contacted him about what to do to prevent a spill from his storage tank from getting out into the environment. He also said that insurance companies really hold a lot of leverage over people and said that, for example, they won't insure people that have storage tanks on their property. Micaela Marchand then presented the blank spill plan to the Committee, explained its content and talked about what DEQ requires. Jerry Smith said that he thinks that Ernest Freeman should distribute these spill plans. Bill Branch then talked about LSU Ag's Resource Management system and how under it they set up a comprehensive plan for farms for resource conservation. He said that in his dealings with this, he tries to get people to at least install clay dikes around storage tanks. Micaela Marchand told the Committee to review the blank spill plan and see if there are any changes that need to be made. She stated that she wants the plan to be clear to people. She said that she's having a problem with trying to state on the blank plan some

of the applicability requirements, in particular how to include on the blank plan the long list of contaminants that are cited in DEQ's regulations. Bill Branch said that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry says that there must be containment around tanks that hold pesticides. Jesse Means then reiterated that for the blank spill plan, DEQ would like the Committee to help decide upon the best way to state the applicability requirements, including the list of contaminants that are cited in DEQ's regulations and that the problem is that there is a long list of contaminants. He explained how when DEQ initially drafted the blank plan, the regulation which covers the list of contaminants was cited, but that it was eventually decided that this would not be the best way to include this list since not everyone would have access to the regulations. Bill Branch and Jerry Smith said that the fact sheet could just state that those people that have tanks containing fuels should have a spill plan. Micaela then went on and explained the rest of the blank spill plan. When she was finished, she asked the Committee if they wanted to change any of it. Ted Lemoine said that he'd like for the blank plan to have a place where a layout of the facility could be sketched and a place that asked for a general description of the facility. Jerry Smith said he thought that would be a good idea. P.T. Palermo said he'd like for the plan to tell people where their completed plan should be kept. Bill Branch said they should keep it in a plastic covering. Ted Lemoine they should submit the plan to the local fire department. Micaela Marchand asked who would someone in Avoyelles Parish call if they actually had a spill. Robert Lemoine stated that people should call 911 and that the 911 operators will make sure the notification gets out to the appropriate agencies. Jesse Means asked how the Committee could get farmers to turn in their completed spill plans. Jerry Smith said to ask them to do so. He said that people are more aware of the importance of keeping their water clean, and that therefore they will be willing to submit their spill plans. Mr. Means then asked how the Committee would ask people to submit their completed spill plans. Micaela and Mr. Smith said it would be best to put it on the blank plan. Everyone on the Committee in general then talked about how Todd St. Romain, a local fuel distributor, should get involved. Jerry Smith said that for now, the blank spill plan should be finished and then he can take it to Todd St. Romain and also talk to Chip Johnson of the Avoyelles Parish Office of

Emergency Preparedness. Robert Lemoine then said that all commercial businesses are already required to submit a Tier 2 plan to the Avoyelles Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness. Bob White, Chief of the Cottonport Fire Department, then explained further that a Tier 2 basically reports what material is located on a business's premises.

4. Ordinance Discussion –

Jerry Smith informed the Committee that the Avoyelles Parish Planning Commission reviewed the ordinance and approved it. Some more information was needed, which Micaela Marchand provided, and the ordinance will be presented to the Avoyelles Parish Police Jury meeting on April 13. Mr. Smith asked if DEQ would be attending and Ms. Marchand said someone from DEQ would be there. Robert Lemoine suggested DEQ bring the aquifer model to show to the Police Jury. Mr. Smith said that he didn't think there would be enough time for that because the Police Jury usually has a full agenda. Ms. Marchand said that she could bring the model and be prepared to use it, just in case the Police Jury wants to see it. Ms. Marchand then reported on the status of the meetings with the mayors of the towns that the Committee wants to get the ordinance passed in. She said that the mayors for both Simmesport and Mansura have agreed to get the ordinance passed in their towns, and that we have yet to get in touch with Moreauville's mayor. Jerry Smith said that the Mayor of Moreauville, Lionel Bordelon, is aware that DEQ wants to show the ordinance to him and is looking for DEQ to contact him. Mr. Smith also said that he'd like something added to the ordinance which would stipulate that for a new well to be drilled, a well owner will have to evaluate what exists within 1,000' of the proposed well location. He asked Bill Branch what he thought and Mr. Branch said that maybe this is something that should be brought up to the Ground Water Commission or at the Louisiana Ground Water Association meeting that comes every January. Mr. Smith said that he's concerned with future wells and wants them to consider sources of contamination. He said he's mainly concerned with irrigation wells and that people shouldn't put in a well next to a point of contamination, like a salvage yard. Mr. Smith asked if the ordinance could be fixed to reflect future wells by the Police Jury meeting on April 13. Micaela Marchand said she'd like to

keep it as it is and try to amend it later. Mr. Smith stated that he'd like to amend the ordinance as the Planning Commission approved it, which was as it is, including the addition of looking at future sources of contamination. Ms. Marchand then explained that with the Source Water Assessment Program, DEQ surveyed potential sources of contamination around existing water wells. She said that she's not sure that you can put in the ordinance that someone would have to evaluate what exists around a proposed well site and that she's not sure how the process of conducting such an evaluation would be accomplished. Bill Branch and Jerry Smith both said that they believe it could be done for future wells and that the well driller should be made to do it. Mr. Branch said that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) might have regulations that say future well sites must be evaluated. Ms. Marchand said she could call DOTD and find out. Jerry Smith suggested that the Police Jury be asked what it thinks about protecting future wells. Ms. Marchand then asked if the ordinance could be left as is and amended later so that she could have time to look into this situation further. Cleveland Carmouche, the Mayor of Cottonport, said that the new wording should be added to the ordinance now and if the Police Jury doesn't like it, they can't take it out. Jerry Smith and Robert Lemoine talked about how the Police Jury should be receptive to the ordinance and said that one of the members of the Planning Commission goes to all the Police Jury meetings. The Committee decided to add to the ordinance that any new well drilled will have to have a survey of all existing potential sources of contamination that are within 1000' of the proposed well location completed. Cleveland Carmouche said that Chip Johnson of the Avoyelles Parish Office of Emergency Preparedness should be notified of these surveys. Bill Branch said that would be a good thing to have the well owners do. Jesse Means asked how someone drilling a new well would be told to notify Emergency Preparedness. Mr. Smith said to tell them to do it. Mr. Carmouche said that the surveys should go through the police jury. Jesse Means asked for clarification on what entity would need to receive any future well-site evaluations, what that mechanism would exist to get this done, and how should it be worded in the ordinance. Jerry Smith said that people in the parish already have to receive a permit from the Police Jury to receive electricity and that the future well-site

evaluations a stipulation toward receiving a permit for electricity. Micaela Marchand said that she would try to send an updated ordinance to Mr. Smith on Monday.

5. Open discussion –
Mervin Lavespere, a water operator with the Town of Cottonport, asked about whether or not there is anything making people put check valves on irrigation wells. He is very concerned with backflow prevention. Jerry Smith said that DHH has been checking this for homes and subdivisions. Mr. Lavespere said that he hasn't seen any check valves put on irrigation wells. Jerry Smith asked what could be done about this. Jesse Means said that the irrigation well best management practices fact sheet will specifically address backflow prevention and that these are currently being printed out. Micaela Marchand asked if something else could be done besides just getting a fact sheet out on it. Bill Branch said that DOTD regulates wells, but that he doesn't think they do anything with backflow. Jesse Means said he believes that DOTD is mainly concerned with well construction. The Committee then went into more discussion on who regulates water wells and who addresses backflow. Mr. Branch said that the Department of Agriculture and Forestry regulates backflow prevention for pesticides. Jerry Smith and Cleveland Carmouche talked about air gaps in new homes and how they don't allow people to get their water turned on if they don't have proper air gaps. Bill Branch and Mervin Lavespere told the Committee about an incident of backflow that occurred in New Roads involving pesticides, and Jerry Smith told about one that occurred in Bordelonville at a house.

Micaela Marchand gave the Committee a print out of an email she had received from Mary Gentry that explained the procedures for reporting an incident to DEQ electronically.

6. The meeting was then ended.